



REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

On January 10, 2005, applicant filed the Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 CFR §§ 1.97-1.98, along with the PTO/SB/08 form and copies of the listed references. However, in the January 28, 2005, office action, these reference citations were not acknowledged by return of an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form listing them. Enclosed is a copy of that information disclosure statement, citations 10-19, and the PTO/SB/08 form. It is respectfully requested that the references listed on this PTO/SB/08 form be considered and that the PTO/SB/08 form be initialed to reflect such consideration and mailed to applicant with the next office action.

The rejection of claims 14-15 (which should instead presumably be claims 16-17), 20-21, 26-29, 36-41, and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,846,422 to Ditter et al., is respectfully traversed in view of the cancellation of claims 16-17, 20-21, 26-29, 36-41, and 45-47. It is noted that the statement on page 2 of the Office Action, indicating that claims 14-15 (directed to processes for forming membranes) are rejected, appears to be a clerical error. The Office Action Summary, consistent with the remainder of the office action allowing the process claims and rejecting the membrane claims, indicates that claims 14-15 are allowed and that claims 16-17 (directed to membrane products) are rejected.

The rejection of claims 14-15 (which should instead presumably be claims 16-17), 20-21, 26-29, 36, 38, 40-41, and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,834,107 to Wang et al., is respectfully traversed in view of the cancellation of claims 16-17, 20-21, 26-29, 36, 38, 40-41, and 45-47.

In view of all the foregoing, it is submitted that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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